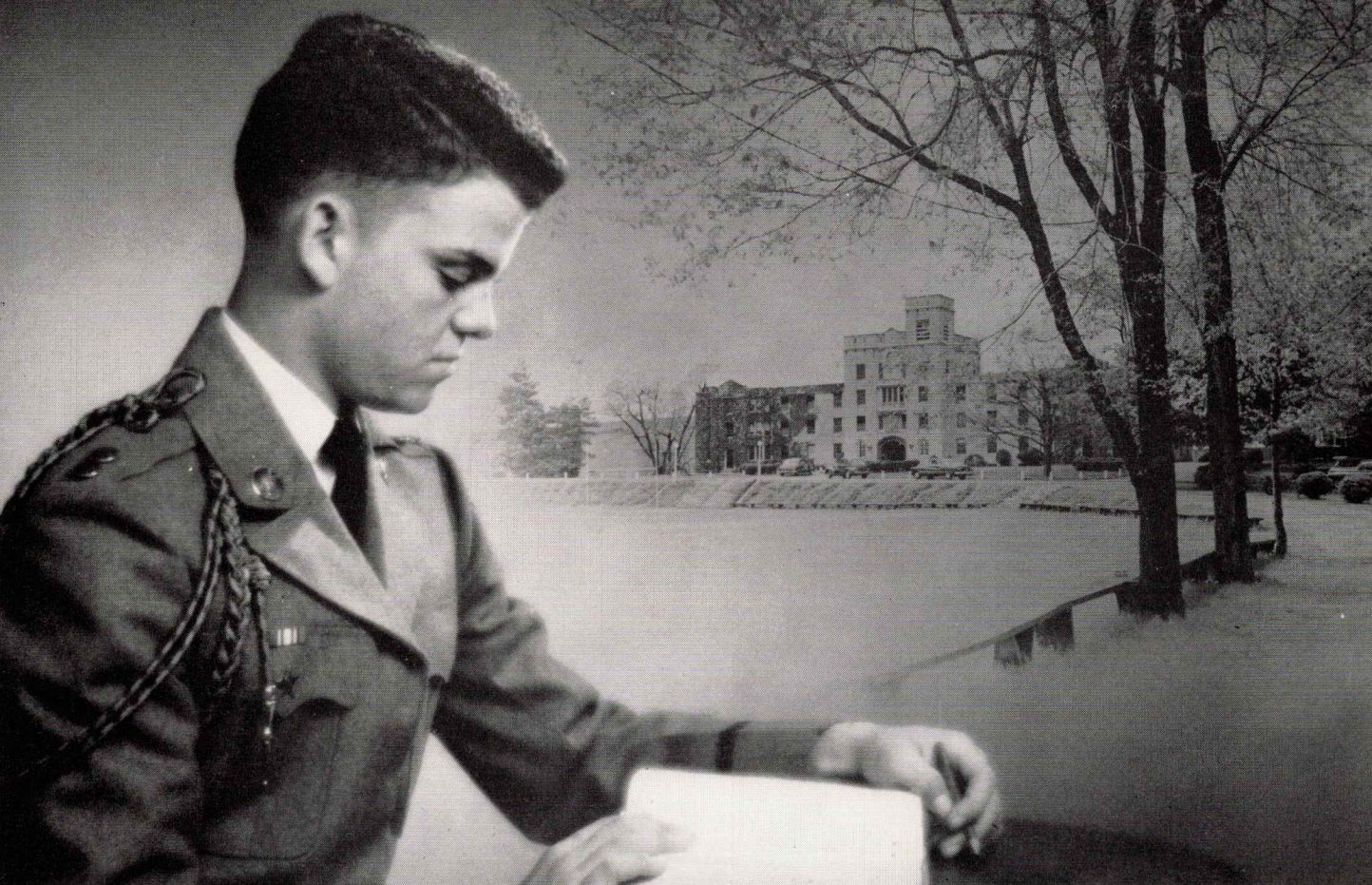


Life at Augusta

AN INVITATION FOR YOU TO SEE 



Life at Augusta

AUGUSTA MILITARY ACADEMY
FORT DEFIANCE, VIRGINIA



MEMBER OF VIRGINIA ASSOCIATION OF PREPARATORY SCHOOLS
MEMBER OF ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY COLLEGES AND SCHOOLS OF THE UNITED STATES
MEMBER OF EDUCATIONAL RECORDS BUREAU
ACCREDITED BY THE VIRGINIA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
ACCREDITED BY THE SOUTHERN ASSOCIATION OF COLLEGES AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS



FOREWORD

Many parents who are interested in Augusta as the school for their boys live at great distances and are unable to see "Life at Augusta". We hope that our catalog together with this booklet will give our friends a complete picture of the functions of the Academy, that it will show why so many of our alumni have become outstanding, and that it will show the true spirit of the boys in the corps as they spend part of their life at Augusta.

Since the primary function of the independent school is in educating the boy, we follow the progress of our alumni closely. In a recent issue of "Fortune" magazine, one of our alumni, John Herbert Holloman, was cited as "one of the top ten young industrial scientists in the nation". As this young man had all of his preparatory school training at Augusta, we feel justified in sharing his happiness.

This is but a single example of the preparation which Augusta strives to give its cadets. Yet many more cases could be given—men who are now successful lawyers, doctors, directors of companies, teachers, scientists, journalists, farmers, businessmen, ministers and officers in the Armed Forces.

With a well-rounded Augusta education, one which includes religious activity, social life, athletic contests, and the expert military training of AMA, our cadets go forth to the leading colleges and universities of the country each September. We want you to join us in discovering that Augusta is more than just a select preparatory school. It is a spirit of friendliness, helpfulness, sincerity, and high morale. We want you to see "Life at Augusta"—to see how the development of all phases of cadet life is integrated by following the routine at Augusta during the school year. We hope that this booklet will show you why our boys are successful at Augusta and after graduation, and why there is always a place in their hearts for AMA.

COL. CHAS. S. ROLLER, JR.
Principal



WHY AUGUSTA?

When the important time arrives to select a preparatory school for your son, we feel that the school should offer you four basic features. First, of course, is a sound academic program, headed by a sound academic faculty. The Augusta program, which is so fully outlined in our catalog, is headed by an outstanding faculty; men who have proven their worth in helping develop boys into men for a number of years. Augusta offers a sound program, with an emphasis on English and mathematics, and with a variety of subjects in every field.

Second to academics is sound moral training. The cadets of the Academy have each year embraced the "honor system" as their code of living. Each day, school is opened with prayers, and every noon, a message is brought the cadets by the Principal. On Sundays, every cadet attends church, Protestant, Catholic, or Jewish. On Sunday nights, the Y. M. C. A. furthers the spirit of Christian living.

The third feature is sound development of the body. With the competent military training, and the numerous athletics offered by Augusta, every cadet rapidly shows progress in his physical bearing. Augusta's military and athletic training fully prepares each cadet for future service training, and it allows the cadet to complete his high school training before going into the service.

The fourth feature which every school should offer is social training—developing the boy in an all-around manner and teaching him to live with his fellow man. Through dances, dates in the nearby girls' schools, socials, and invitations to the homes of the faculty for meals, AMA cadets have become known for their gentlemanly conduct and courteous manners.

Augusta offers more than the four basic requirements of a preparatory school. The country location is ideal for developing each of the above features to the maximum degree. And Augusta is the school which has a spirit evident to all visitors—the spirit of friendliness and helpfulness which is needed to give each boy a home away from home.





You already have friends when you arrive at AMA.

Life at Augusta

From the moment a cadet arrives at Augusta until the final strains of "Auld Lang Syne" in June, he knows that he is welcome and that he is accepted as an individual. As one cadet recently said, "You know, you already have friends when you enroll at AMA!" The spirit of friendliness is obvious in the greeting he receives from each faculty member and from the old cadets.

On arrival at the Academy, the officers and members of the Y. M. C. A. cabinet greet the cadets and help them to become settled. Each new boy is given the Y. M. C. A. Handbook, a helpful collection of the rules, regulations, letters of welcome, cheers, and school songs of AMA, along with the athletic schedules and classroom schedules. Registration is held in the AMA Memorial Gymnasium, where the parents and the cadets can meet and consult each member of the faculty.

Typical of the AMA spirit, the wives of the faculty serve coffee and sandwiches during registration to all guests. This close contact is invaluable to both the parents and the faculty.

The Principal, Col. Roller, and the Headmaster, Col. H. D. Deane, scrutinize carefully the transcript of each boy before school opens. From the wide variety of courses offered at Augusta, they select the subjects which are best suited for the individual cadet. After consultations with the parents and the cadet at registration, each boy is given his schedule of classes.

The first night at AMA is filled with important cadet meetings, visits to see if any boy needs sheets and blankets, and helpful "bull sessions". Here again, the cadet feels wanted, an important step in welding the corps into the large family atmosphere which typifies AMA. This atmosphere is never more apparent than on the first Sunday after entrance. The open-

ing Sunday worship service is held on the AMA grounds, with the cadets, faculty, and patrons attending the service. That afternoon, with just a minimum of preparation, the cadets present their first formal Sunday afternoon parade. At the informal buffet supper following the parade, Colonel and Mrs. Roller welcome each boy, new and old. The companies are sponsored by members of the faculty who serve the boys, talk with them and make them feel genuinely at home. The family atmosphere of the supper is retained in the opening service of

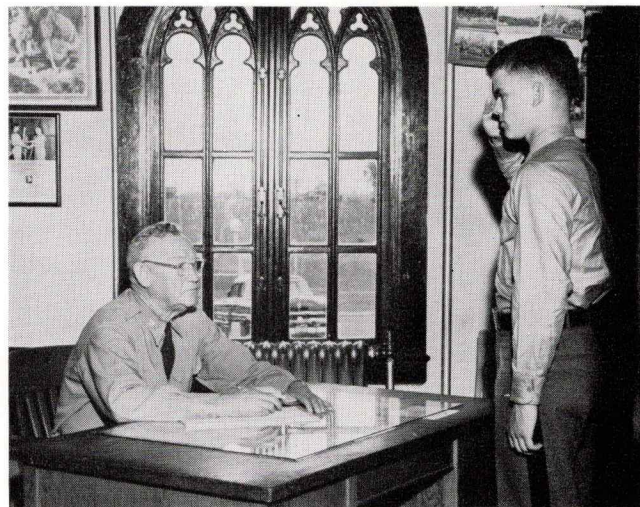
teacher gives every day outside of class to help his students. Many teachers give up their free periods and their recesses to show the boys how to work problems. Some teachers stay every afternoon in order to aid the boys in any way that they can. What is not shown in pictures here or in the catalog are the teachers who come nearly every night to their classrooms to help the cadets in their subjects, the afternoons and nights which the cadets spend in laboratories doing outside work, the field trips with the teachers to points of interest— all done will-



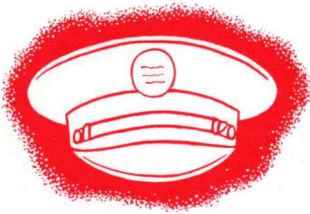
... And it's not long before you're in uniform.

the "Y", which plays so large a role in a cadet's life while at AMA.

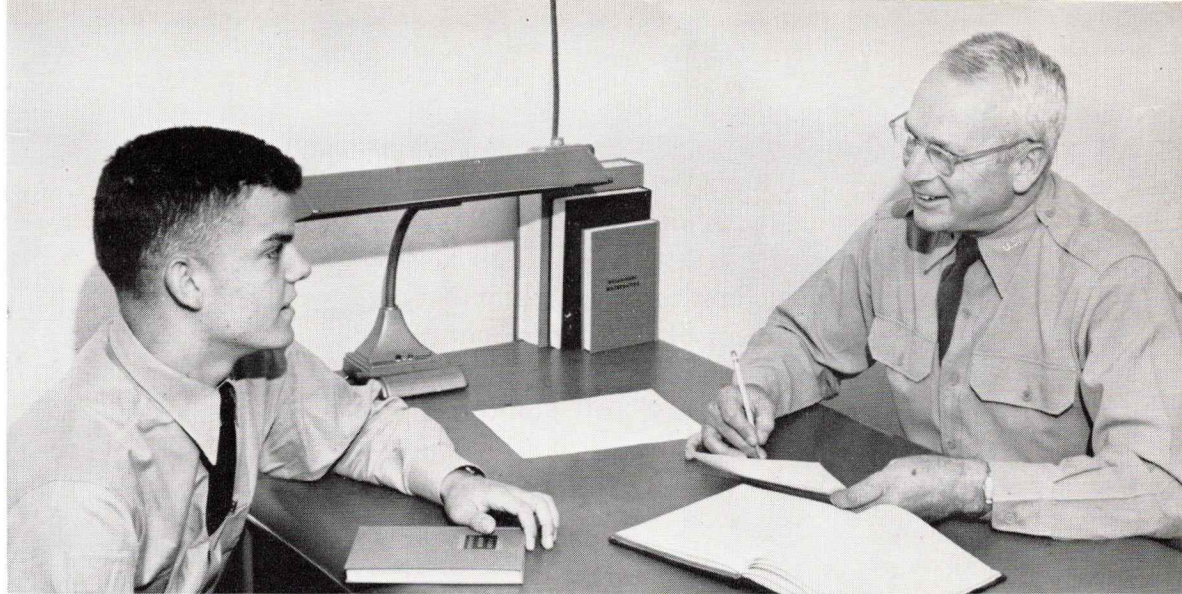
At AMA scholarship is paramount. On the day following registration, after short classes held to indoctrinate the cadets in the daily routine, the opening assembly features an outstanding speaker. The high point of the assembly comes, however, when Col. Roller introduces each member of his faculty to the corps of cadets. AMA's faculty is chosen for its skill, its devotion to duty, its understanding of boys, and its true desire to help each boy attain his goal. As the catalog explains, every night teachers are on duty to help the cadets. What is not mentioned in the catalog is the time each



Col. Louisell, the Commandant, confers with each cadet about his room and roommate.



The Headmaster, Col. Deane, helps each boy select those subjects which will best prepare him for college.



ingly to fan the spark of interest which could help the boy become outstanding in his field. Not a day passes that the teachers do not hold conferences with one another to determine a boy's needs and the methods for improving his study habits. Here at Augusta, there is a faculty who cares about the progress of every boy. The success of the emphasis which AMA places upon academics has been proven time and time again. In 1953 one of our boys from Cuba won a scholarship open to all Spanish-speaking boys in the United States. This scholarship was to the Colorado School of Mines. His record there is a mirror of his record at Augusta. For four consecutive years, AMA cadets placed first and second in the biology section of the annual science contest held at the College of William and Mary. Last year, the chemistry section had Augusta cadets to place second and third, as the Academy's contestants did the year before. Augusta has become outstanding in teaching elementary atomic energy to the science classes, and last year a large Virginia high school sent a representative to study the AMA system and to see the substantial number of atomic energy devices which it owns.

Each year, Augusta has had a large percentage of boys competing for the Naval R. O. T. C. scholarships to be successful, due largely to the excellent preparation which they have received in English and mathematics. In 1954, four out of five boys taking the N. R. O. T. C. examination were successful, and in 1953, five out of the seven contestants won places for themselves. In 1955, three of our contestants have been notified that they have received N. R. O. T. C. scholarships. Each year, Augusta cadets place

high on the awards list of the Modern Language Tournament. Nearly every year we have boys entering the service academies from Augusta on the competitive appointments which AMA offers. At the present time, we have an AMA graduate leading his class at Annapolis, and we have a "plebe" at West Point who won a scholarship in every competition in which he entered. All of his high school years had been spent at AMA.

As mentioned in the foreword, John Herbert Holloman was cited in 1954 by *Fortune* as one of the top ten young scientists in the U. S. In 1955, the United States Junior Chamber of Commerce chose Holloman as one of the top ten young men in the country. As a research metallurgist at General Electric, he has made 25 discoveries concerning metals. We are proud of John's record, since he had all of his



The Reading Clinic's testing and remedial program helps many cadets who have reading difficulties.

four high school years at Augusta before entering the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While he was at Augusta, he took full advantage of the opportunities offered him by preparing himself in all of the science and math courses given at the Academy, graduating number one in his class. And still Holloman was able to be active in all phases of school life—first lieutenant in the cadet corps, secretary of the YMCA, a member of Ad Astra Per Aspera Fraternity, editor of the yearbook, *The Recall*, and manager of the football team!

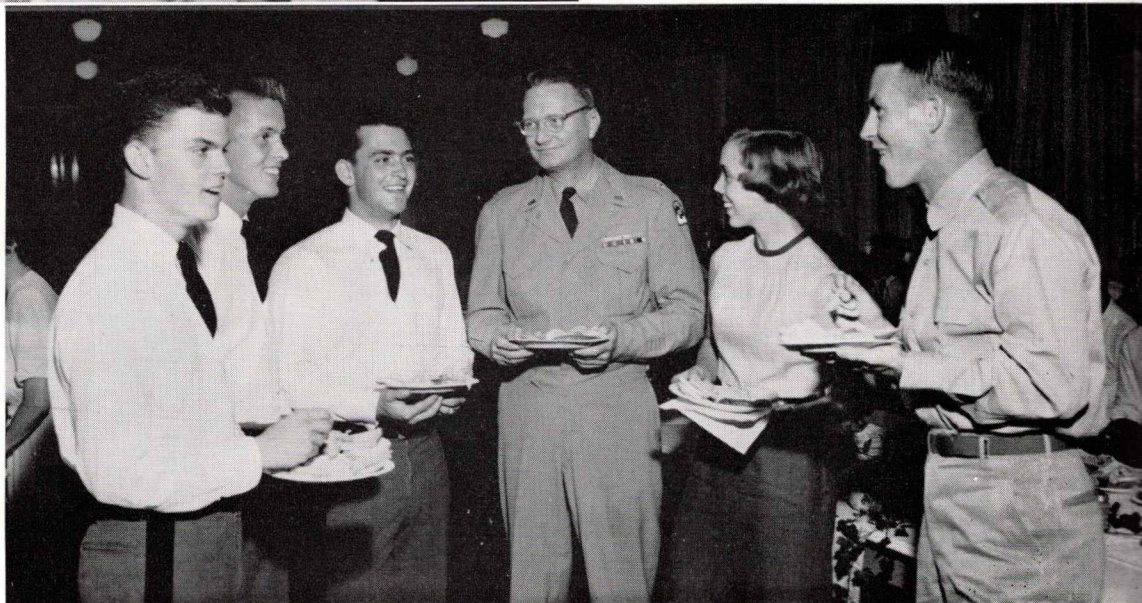
We are asked frequently, "Where do your graduates go to school?" and this is certainly important to all parents. At the present



Registration in the gym—and company assignment by Major Christie and Capt. Gibbs of the Military Department.



Mrs. Deane serves the boys of "A" Company at the buffet supper.



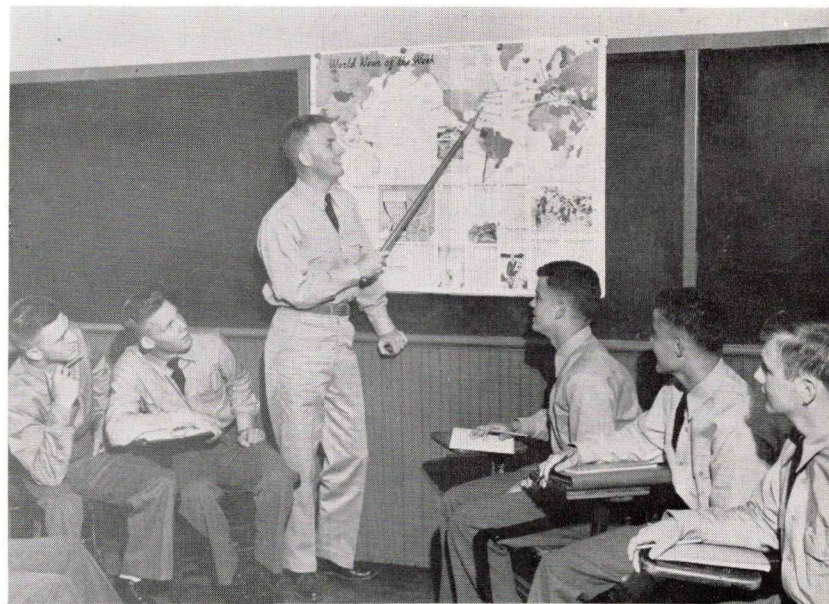
The friendliness of the faculty is an added asset. Here the boys confer with Col. McCue and Capt. and Mrs. Taylor.



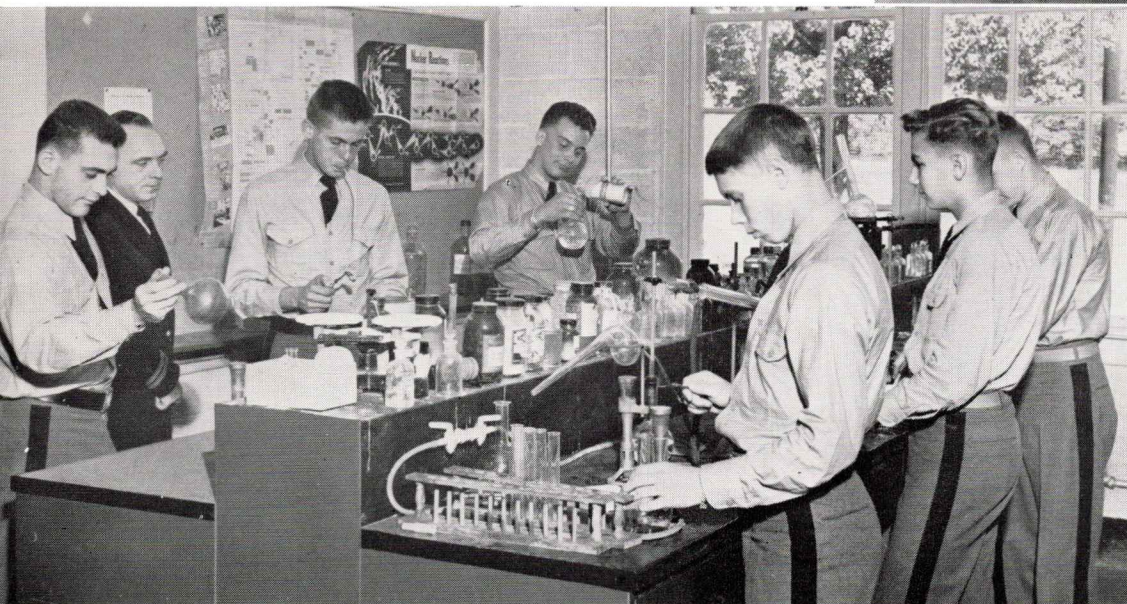


Col. and Mrs. Roller tell the boys—"it's all for one and one for all!"

time, we have alumni now enrolled at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, the Colorado School of Mines, the University of Virginia, the University of North Carolina, Washington and Lee University, Hampden-Sydney College, Randolph-Macon College, the University of Maryland, Alabama Polytechnic Institute, the University of Georgia, Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Kentucky, Virginia Military Institute, The Naval Academy, The U. S. Military Academy, North Carolina State College, Virginia Polytechnic Institute, Davidson College, Clemson College, the University of South Carolina, Carnegie Institute of Technology, Duke University,



Capt. Taylor highlights current events in American History class.



Chemistry means laboratory work—interesting and challenging.





A trip down to the Fort for "supplies."

and many other leading colleges and universities, all fulfilling the promise which they showed as students at Augusta.

There are numerous awards given to the best cadets in all fields. This creates the incentive to be the best in all that a cadet attempts while he is at AMA. This is reflected in the quiet of the study hours and in study hall during the entire school year. A glance at the list of medals awarded at Finals will testify to the importance which the faculty places upon reward for effort. In addition to this list, there are the important athletic letters awarded for participation in every sport, the ribbons for work on the Cotillion Club and Decorating Committee, membership in the famed Roller Rifles for excellence in drill work,

medals for sharpshooters, experts and marksmen, honor roll privileges each month, which include dinner on Sundays at a nearby restaurant, White Pages for men with no demerits, and membership in Ad Astra Per Aspera for the ten men who have done the most for their school.

There is more than school work, library courses, and study hall at Augusta. There are the impressive Sunday afternoon parades, attended by visitors from all over the country. Frequently, the expert Roller Rifles give exhibition drills at the school and in contests in the vicinity. There is the participation of the entire corps in the Harrisonburg Veteran's Day parade, when each member of the corps is the

AMA's favorite spot to gather—the Post Exchange.





"Give me a coke, Bill."

guest of Col. and Mrs. Roller for supper in one of the leading restaurants. There are the trips for the Roller Rifles and the band to the Oyster Bowl, the Tobacco Festival, the Christmas parades in Staunton and Waynesboro, the trips to Winchester for Apple Blossom festival, and the Armed Forces Day parade, when the cadets once more are treated to dinner by Col. and Mrs. Roller.

Augusta has always been known for the rooting of its corps. During the past year, this was even more evident, especially when AMA was behind! In the fall, AMA has as many as six football teams on its fields, ranging from the miniature "Sardines" up to the varsity, composed entirely of boys playing for the "fun" of it. There are no athletic scholarships at Augusta. This fact accounts for the enthusiasm and support which the boys who have lived together and played together for a number of



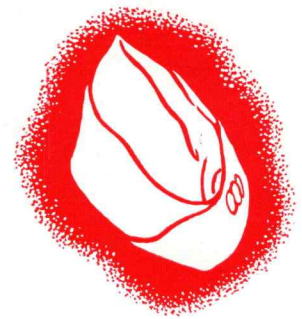
Jam session after drill.

Dating at Stuart Hall, one of the four neighboring girls' schools.

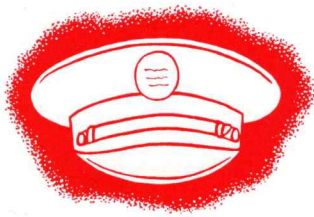


Dancing can be fun—especially at Stuart Hall's Tea Dance.

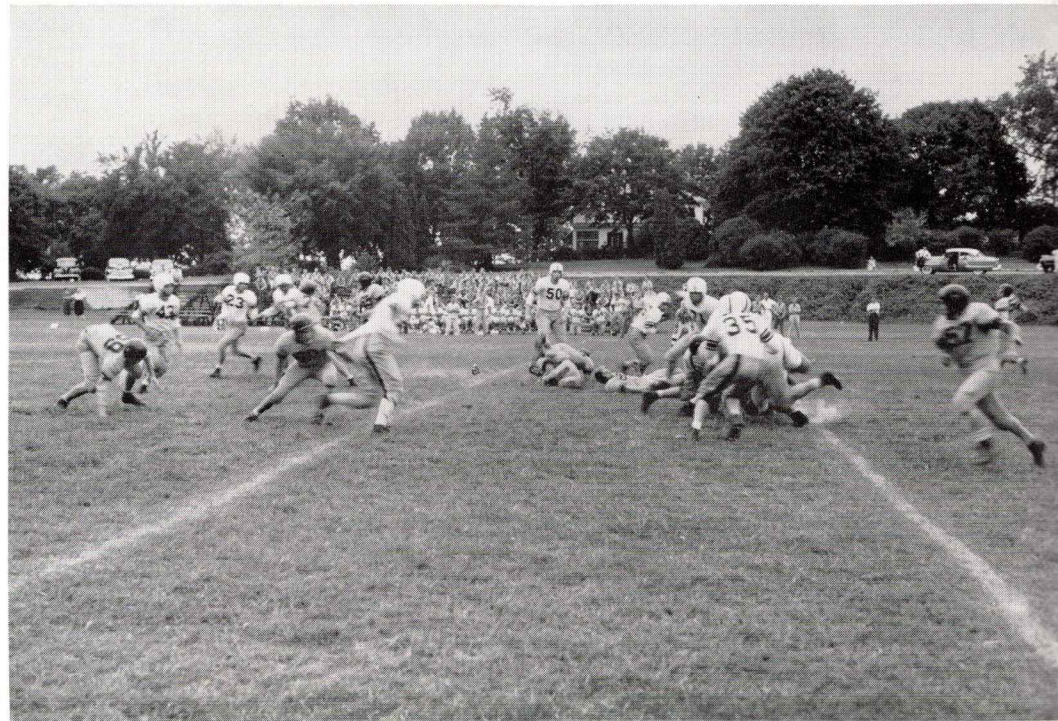




Getting ready for Saturday's game.



Game time — now we mean business!

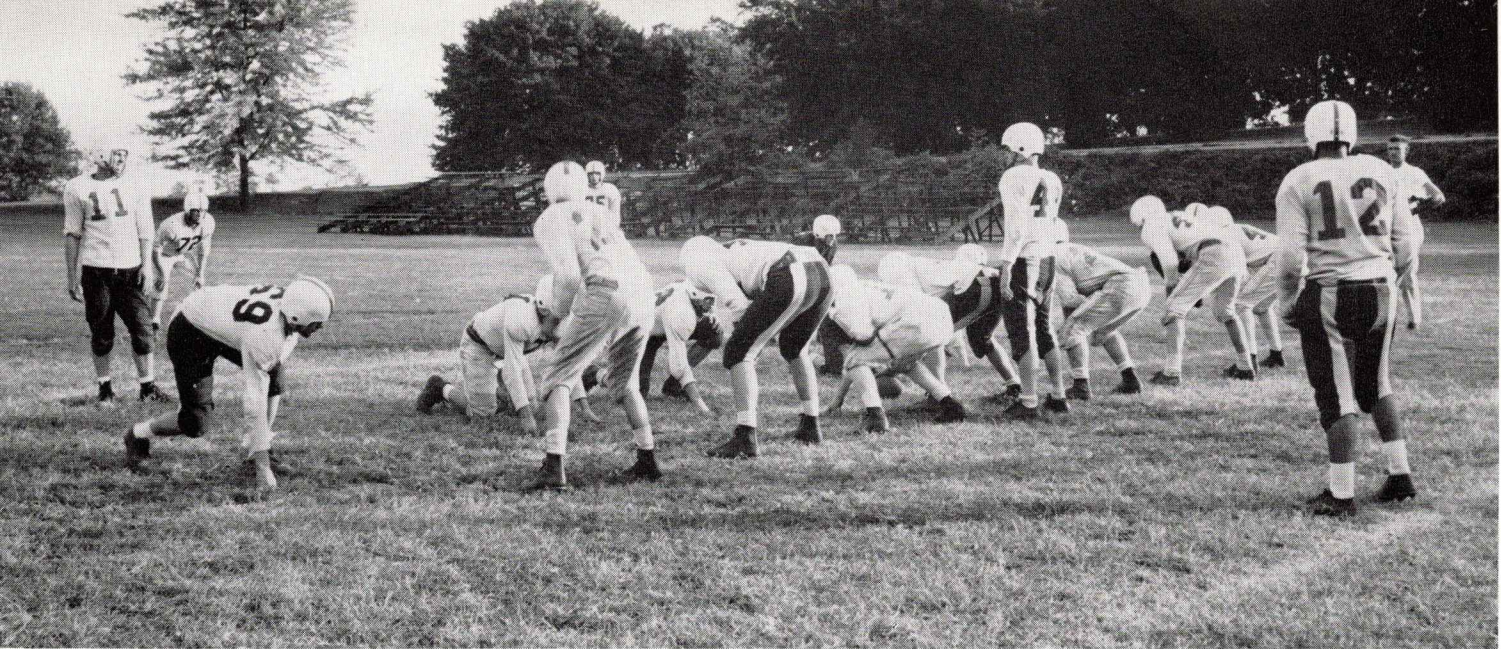


years show when their team is in competition with another school.

The enthusiasm of AMA's cadets is hard to describe. Yet a visit at Thanksgiving for the annual game between Augusta and Fishburne, one of the State's oldest rivalries, would give even a stranger the idea of the closeness of the cadets and their support of their teammates and their school. Many of our alumni choose the Thanksgiving week end for a "homecoming" visit. In addition to the big game, there is the important Football-Thanksgiving banquet, and the Holiday Ball on Friday.

On the night after the game, those boys who worked so long and hard each after-

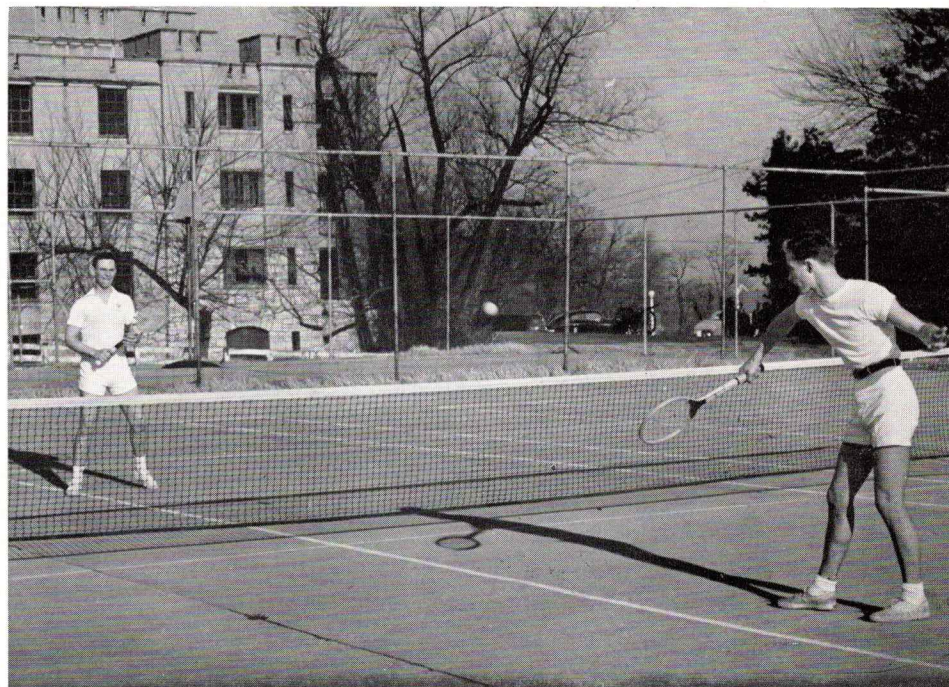
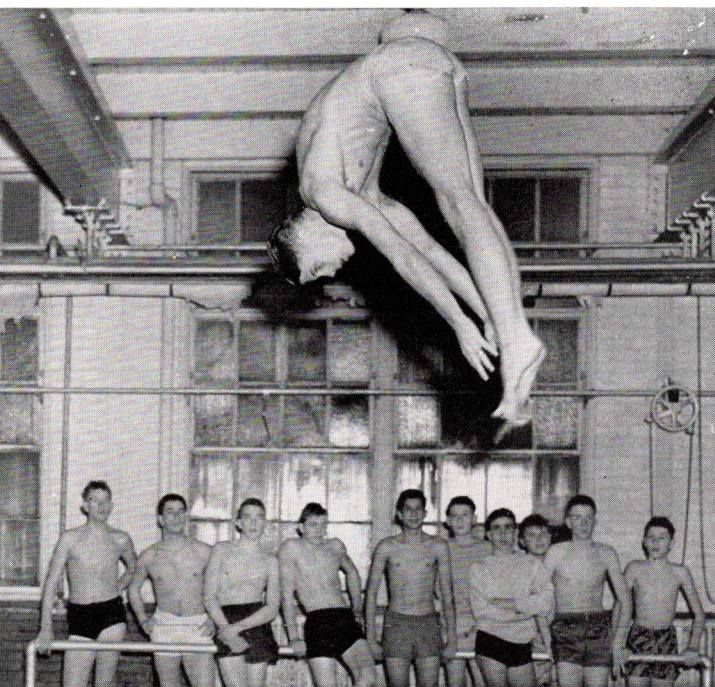




Playing because they like to play football.



With 1,500 acres of land around the school, football fields and baseball diamonds, a newly refinished gym floor, tennis courts and a swimming pool, every boy at Augusta can participate in a variety of sports.



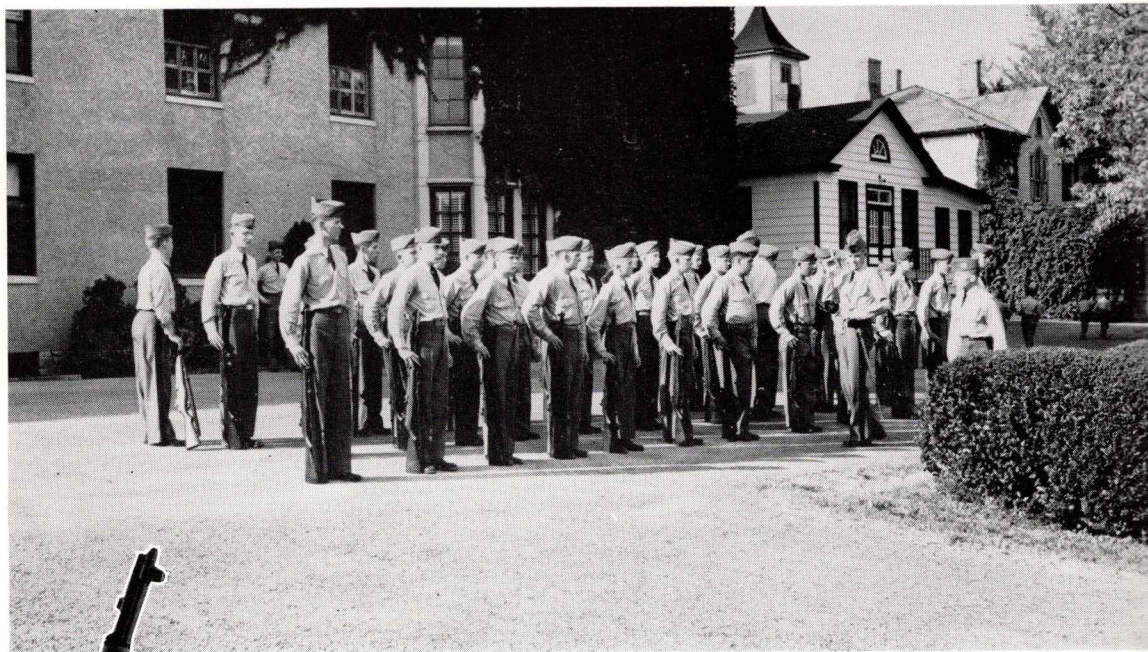


Practice now can mean the Cup in June!



Every boy shines at Monday Morning Inspection!

Trying for best new Cadet.



noon are honored by Col. and Mrs. Roller at the huge Football-Thanksgiving banquet, when there are more than 200 guests present. After a real Thanksgiving meal, the well earned football letters are awarded, but the highlight comes with the presentation of the gold football award to the season's best player. This year, Col. Roller awarded this honor to Cadet Captain A. C. Ray III, of Ashland, Virginia, and a special gold football was awarded to Cadet Lt. Galen Metro, of Youngstown, Ohio, for his loyalty and spirit. With the Holiday Ball



Visits of young ladies from the nearby schools enrich the social life of the Cadets.

coming right after the banquet, the week end is one of the most important of the fall season at Augusta.

Many of our patrons are interested in the teams which our varsity plays in the fall; so we are including our 1954 varsity football schedule below:

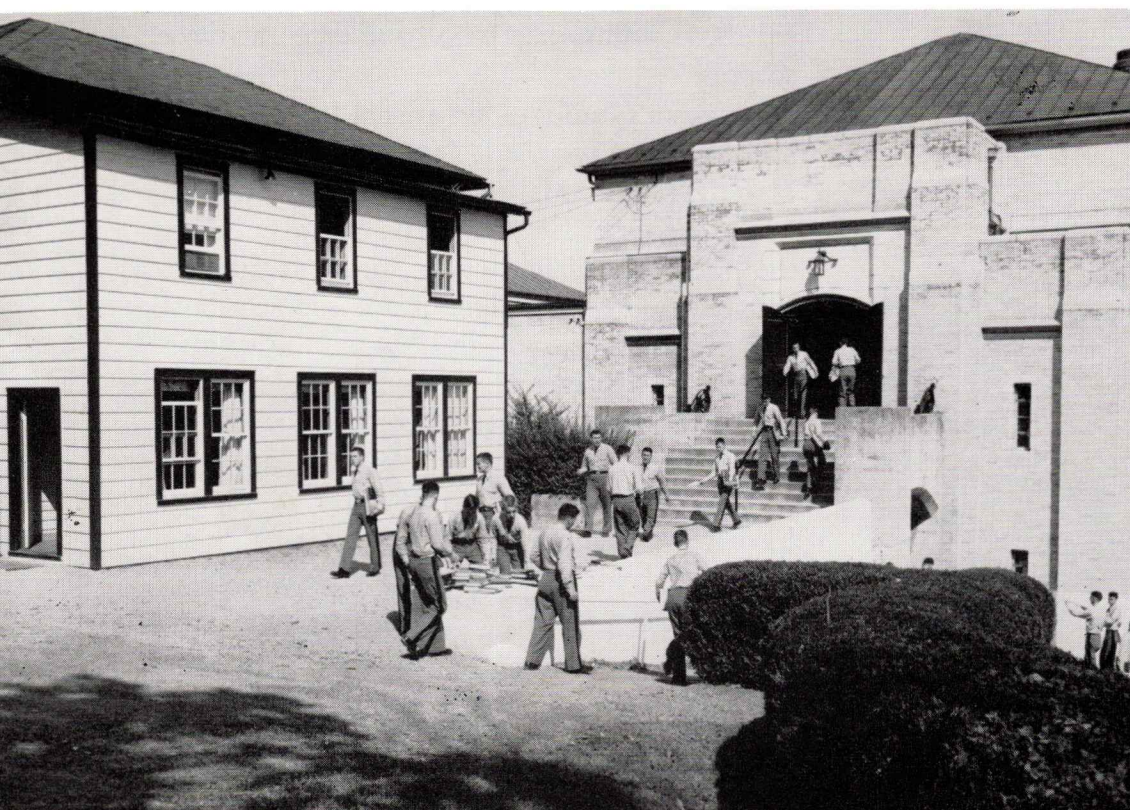
FOOTBALL SCHEDULE 1954

Sept. 25	Roanoke Catholic High School	at Roanoke
Oct. 1	Culpeper High School	at Augusta
Oct. 9	Virginia Episcopal School	at Lynchburg
Oct. 22	Lynchburg Presbyterian Home	at Augusta
Oct. 30	Miller School	at Miller School
Nov. 5	Appomatox High School	at Augusta
Nov. 13	Episcopal High School	at Alexandria
Nov. 20	Hargrave Military Academy	at Augusta
Nov. 25	Fishburne Military School	at Waynesboro

The cadets soon discover the importance of Stuart Hall, Fairfax Hall, and Mary Baldwin College, as the majority of the dates at the Au-



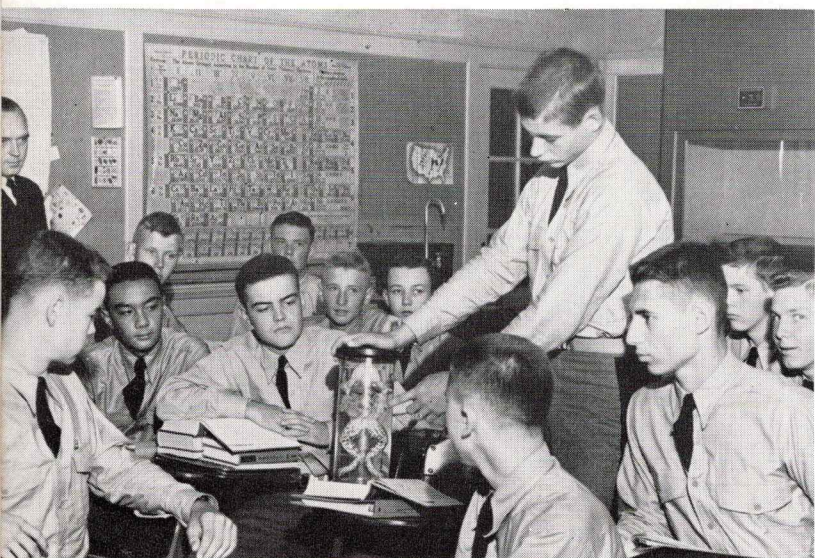
"Period Three is over. Recess is on."



Changing classes.

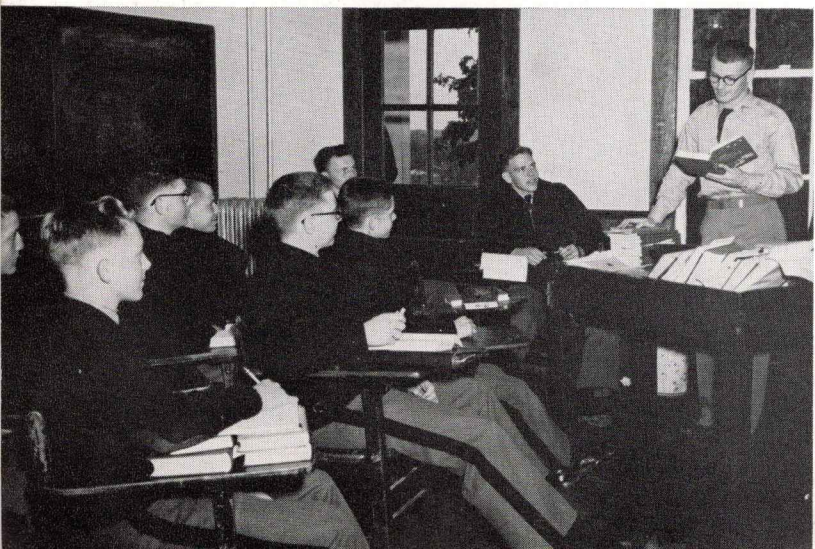


Typing can aid every boy who goes to college.



Discussions by cadets in small classes add to their ability to talk before larger groups.

Eight boys in a class mean more personal attention.

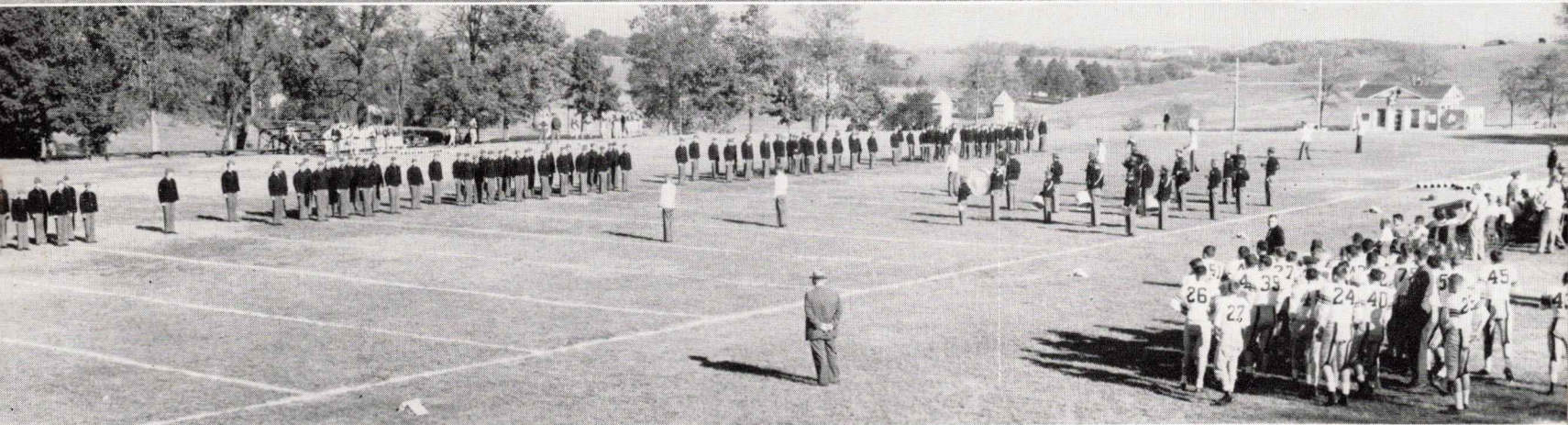


gusta dances come from these girls' schools. All of the boys have a chance to meet the young ladies at the Opening Informal, held shortly after the beginning of school. Stuart Hall and Fairfax Hall quickly reciprocate with afternoon dances so that all of the cadets may have the opportunity to become acquainted with a number of young ladies.

Each cadet in the school is asked to join the Cotillion Club which sponsors the dances during the school year. The first semester has the Opening Formal and the Holiday Ball, held during the Thanksgiving week end. Stuart Hall's Fall Formal and Fairfax Hall's class dances enliven several Saturday nights during the fall for those young men who have dated at those schools.

Augusta's Junior cadets are not left out of the social picture, for Capt. Lucus and Mrs. Davis plan the fun of a Halloween Party, and an afternoon Christmas Dance for the Saturday before the holidays. Youngsters from the families in the area are invited to attend, and soon the boys and girls are mixing amiably in the numerous games which have been planned for them. The Junior Playroom is decorated for the occasion by the cadets themselves.

Well fed boys means satisfied boys. Augusta has always paid attention to the meals that are served and for years has been noted for its



*Saturday and another game—the band leads the way.
The Star Spangled Banner and then a cheer.*

excellent food: milk twice a day, potatoes every day, meat at lunch and dinner each day, fruits in the mornings and desserts at night, meats and vegetables from the school farms. At some meals, two meats are provided in case the boys do not like one of the two. Second, third and even fourth helpings are not unusual at AMA. Most parents find that their sons quickly gain weight after they have been at Augusta for just a short while, due to the excellent food and regular hours.

When the hunting season opens, many of the boys who have permission from home can be seen tramping the woods in search of the three "game" animals which they can bag on

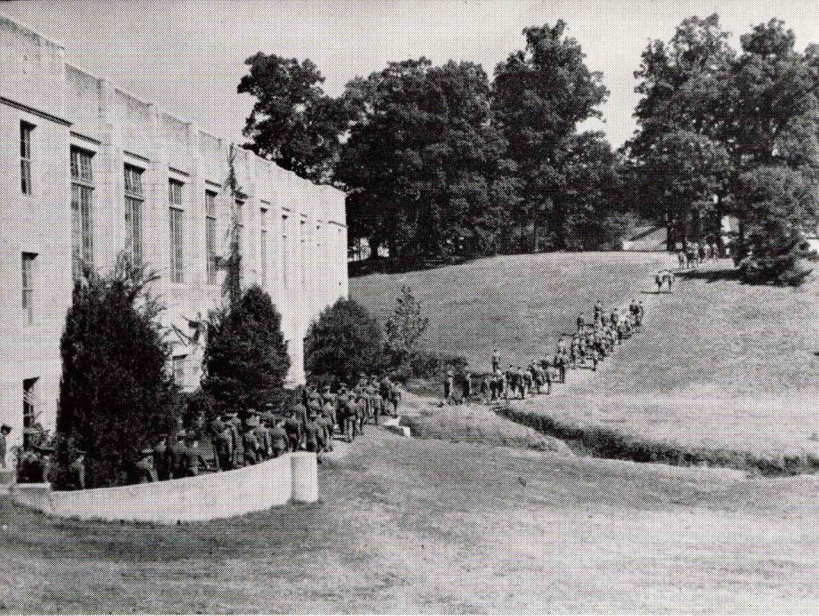
the AMA property—crows, ground hogs, and skunks. Frequently during this time, the boys go along with some of the teachers, adding to that closeness which typifies AMA.

Nearby the school is a huge apple orchard, and from the first day, boys can be seen bringing back bags of apples to their rooms. A small cave, the "C. W." cave, holds an interest for others, while many of the cadets take to the woods during the autumn to collect specimens for their classes.

The interest which the teachers have in their students is even more in evidence during the weeks before Christmas, Spring and Final examinations. Every night, at least three

Come on, men, we can win!





Up the hill to Church.

days, the entire corps and the faculty worship together again at the Christmas Y. M. C. A. Traditionally, AMA has supplied the Christmas dinner for the Lynchburg Presbyterian Home. After Col. Roller explains what this means to the boys and girls at Lynchburg, no cadet wants to disappoint them on Christmas day.

The closeness and that very difference which makes AMA an individual school is even more apparent on the night before the corps leaves for Christmas vacation. Col. Roller, loaded with toys, whistles, noise makers, balloons, candy and apples, distributes his bundle of greetings to "his" boys at the family party in the Mess Hall, which is decorated in gay Christmas colors. To the amazement of many visitors, the barracks

Mr. Allison greets each boy.



teachers visit during Study Hour to see if the cadets need help. Many of the teachers hold afternoon and evening help classes. These help classes are invaluable to both the teacher and the students, resulting generally in better grades on the important semester examinations.

On the Sunday before the Christmas holi-

after the party are a model of quietness and efficiency, due, we feel, to the enthusiasm and letting off of steam at the party.

Winter at Augusta is filled with activities enough to keep every boy occupied. Heading the extra-curricular interests is basketball, followed closely by swimming, fencing, wrestling,



On Parade in Harrisonburg—precision now because of practice earlier.

the rifle team, and, when the weather permits, sledding, and snowball fights. The 1955 basketball team finds itself playing on a completely refinished gym floor in one of the finest preparatory school gymnasiums in the South. Since the gym floor is large enough, two of the teams may practice on it at the same time. Our schedule for the 1955 winter sports reflects the healthy interest which our cadets have in all winter athletics, and for the information of our patrons and friends, it is printed below:

AMA WINTER SPORTS 1955

BASKETBALL

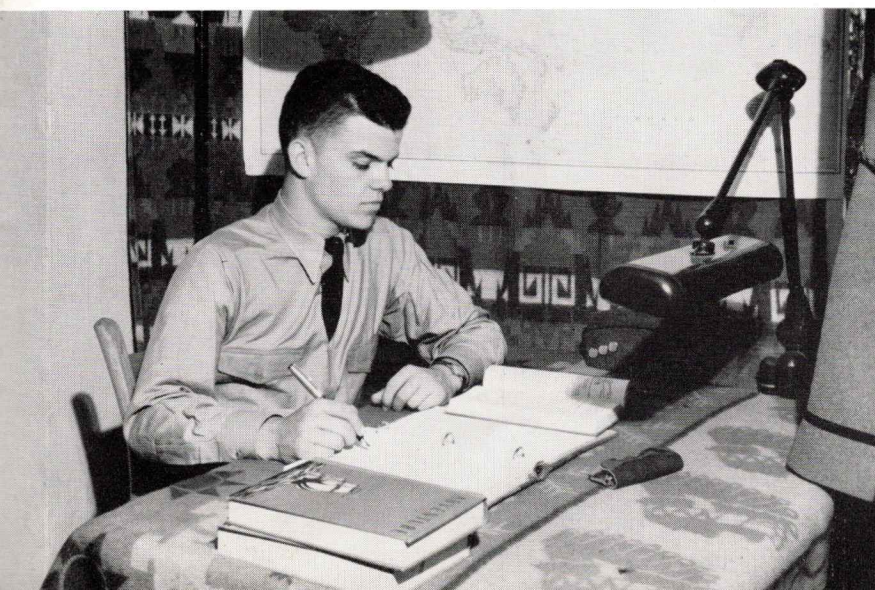
Jan.	15	Roanoke Catholic	Away
Jan.	17	Greenbrier M. S.	Away

Jan.	21	V.S.D.B.	Home
Jan.	26	Va. Episcopal	Away
Jan.	29	Greenbrier M. S.	Home
Feb.	1	Blue Ridge School	Home
Feb.	5	Randolph-Macon	Away
Feb.	8	V.S.D.B.	Away
Feb.	12	Va. Episcopal	Home
Feb.	16	Fishburne M. S.	Away
Feb.	19	Randolph-Macon	Home
Feb.	26	Norfolk Academy	Away
March	3	Fishburne	Home

FENCING

Jan.	22	Univ. of North Carolina	Away
Feb.	5	U. S. N. Academy Plebes	Away
Feb.	12	N. C. State College	Home
Feb.	26	V. M. I.	Home

Boys study in their quiet rooms and teachers visit each night to help them.



A Sunday afternoon visit to "White Hall," Col. Roller's home.



RIFLE

Shoulder-to-Shoulder Matches*

Jan.	14	Fishburne M. S.	Home
Feb.	2	Randolph-Macon	Away
Feb.	9	Greenbrier M. S.	Away
Feb.	18	Randolph-Macon	Home
Feb.	23	Greenbrier	Home
Feb.	25	Fishburne	Away

State Meet place and date to be announced later

POSTAL MATCHES

15 Nov.-15 Dec.	W. R. Hearst Trophy
Jan. 21	Penna. Military School
March 4	Columbia Military Academy
Second Army Intercollegiate—4 Phases	

SWIMMING

Jan.	14	V. M. I. Frosh	Away
Jan.	15	Randolph-Macon	Home
Jan.	19	Univ. Virginia Frosh	Home
Jan.	29	Richmond "Y"	Home

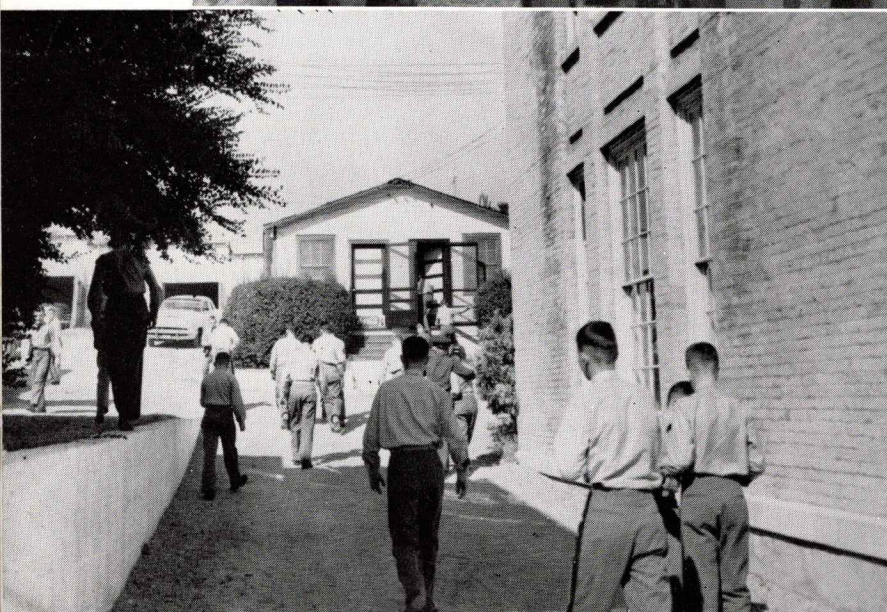
Feb.	2	V. M. I. Frosh	Home
Feb.	7	Richmond "Y"	Away
Feb.	10	Univ. of Virginia Frosh	Away
Feb.	19	Southern Interscholastics at Chapel Hill, N. C.	
Feb.	26	Randolph-Macon	Away
March	5	State Meet at Charlottesville	

Athletics, however, are not confined to team competition, for intramural activity is not overlooked at AMA. There is company competition in every sport. These are sometimes the closest and most keenly fought contests at the Academy.

During the winter months, the Junior School takes even more advantage of its fine enlarged playroom, where the boys can play games during the cold afternoons, or devote their time to hobbies. The small boys are constantly under the charge and supervision of Capt. Lucas, who heads the Junior Department. Lt. Coleman,

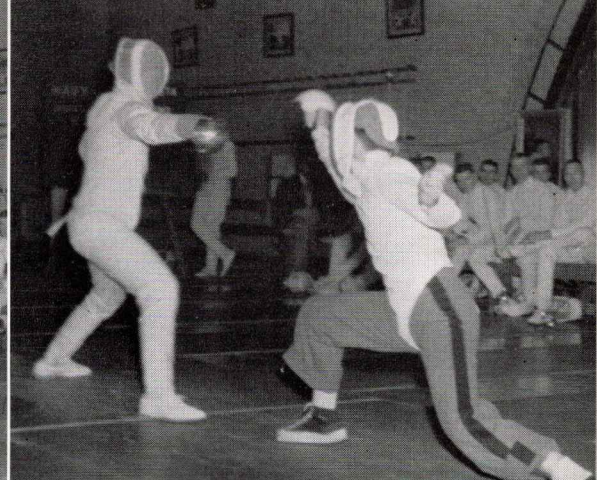
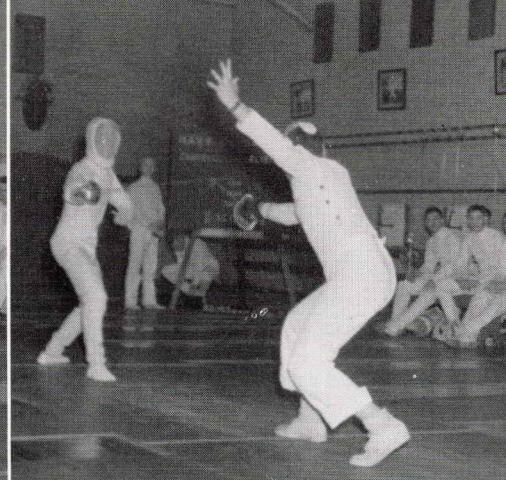


Recess means PX time.



.... And away they go!





Fencing develops agility and skill.

Mrs. Davis, Mrs. McCrum, and Mrs. Thompson are close by to help whenever the boys want them.

Every Saturday night of the school year, recently released movies are shown to the cadets, at a small nominal charge. Occasionally, the pictures are of such merit that on Sunday afternoons the picture is rerun at no charge for those who did not get a chance to see it, and for those who wish to see it again.

Each Sunday morning after church, with their rooms shining and in order, the cadets await Col. Roller's tight inspection. Important in many ways, this teaches the boys the necessity of neatness and gives the cadets an opportunity to add merits to their conduct records. Every school day, a separate record is maintained, and at Finals, prizes are awarded to the boys having kept the best room all year long.

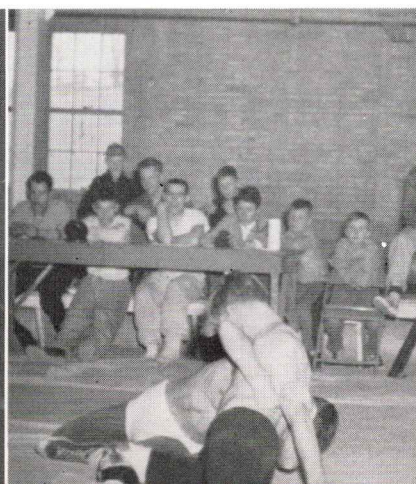
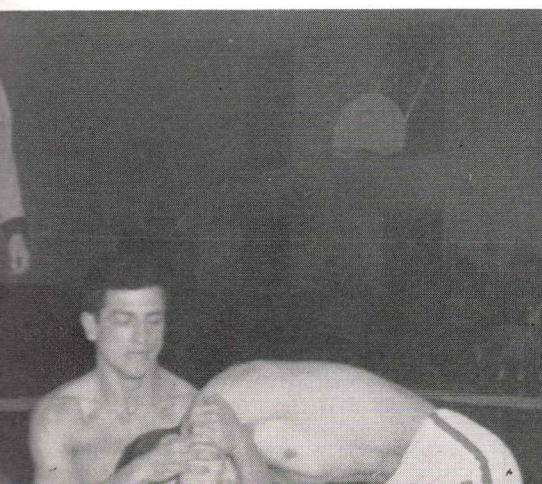
Sunday night is Y. M. C. A. night—every Sunday. The place which the "Y" has held in the lives of many of the cadets is inestimable. Several tangible results have been seen by the corps each year. At the present time the President of the "Y" is a Jewish boy. The president of the "Y" three years ago is now studying for the Episcopal ministry at a southern university. Another past president is now a preacher in the Baptist Church. Always noted for its music,

the "Y" has been under the musical direction of Mrs. Warren S. Robinson, sister of Col. Roller, who has given unstintingly of her time and energy to the "Y" and the cadet choir. The intangible good which the "Y" has done can be felt by attending a meeting and hearing the reverent chain prayers offered by the cadets, large and small, during the service.

The chaplain of the school, the Rev. James A. Allison, Jr., is always ready to serve a cadet when he needs help. Mr. Allison, however, visits the boys in times of happiness as well as in times of trouble.

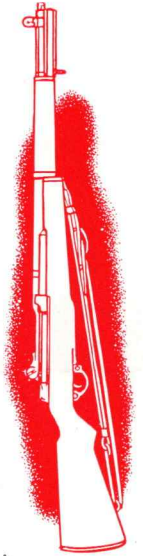
During the winter, one of the Academy's most popular dances is held. The barn dance, with livestock added to the imported hay and straw to lend just the right amount of aroma to the dance, is supported by all of the cadets. During the winter, company competition extends to participation in the company dances which are given on Saturday nights. The climax of the season is the Cotillion Club's Mid-Winter Formal. Before the dance the officers of the Cotillion Club and their dates are entertained by Col. and Mrs. Roller at dinner in their home, "White Hall." AMA's dances have become renown for the decorations which transform the gymnasium into a ballroom. All of this work is done by the volunteers who fre-

A close match in a wrestling meet.





Field work is under the guidance of expert military leaders.



The O. D. checks each permit and is in charge of the routine of the day.





Saturday night informals enliven winter week ends.

quently swing from rafter to rafter in order to get the paper "just right".

Another large family party is given the night before the Spring Rest Period, when the letters for the winter sports are awarded. After a short vacation, the boys are back, with more of a competitive spirit than ever, because the time grows short to prepare for the competition for the Company Cup, awarded at Finals to the best drilled company, and the Platoon Cup for the best drilled platoon. Preparations for Government Inspection, the Pin-Up Queen Dance, Apple Blossom Festival, Founders' Day, Armed Forces Day, company banquets and bar-b-ques, Stuart Hall's Spring Dance and Fairfax's May Day, make the third semester pass even faster than the first two. Neither studies nor athletics are neglected during this time, for this is the semester when the Modern Language Tournament, the Latin Contest, and the annual Science Contest are held. Augusta is one of the few preparatory schools in the country which requires all of its seniors to take the College Entrance Examination Boards. These tests are invaluable to the school in evaluating the preparedness of each student, and the courses in which he could probably do best at college.

Some colleges require College Boards before accepting a student; otherwise the results are not disclosed. However, Col. Deane, the Headmaster, is better able to give advice to each one of the seniors, based upon his knowledge of their placement on the tests.

Baseball, tennis, lacrosse, and swimming are the favorite spring sports. Intramurals are highlighted during this semester. Each company competes in softball, tennis, swimming, and volleyball. Golf has become more and more popular, and Augusta has an ideal arrangement for the golfers. The AMA Athletic Association purchases memberships for the AMA cadets at the Ingleside Golf Club. Our cadets are allowed to play on the course and to use the outdoor swimming pool during certain afternoons. For the other sports, the grounds at the Academy are ample to accommodate several teams in each sport. Filled every afternoon are the tennis courts and baseball diamonds. The young boys take a special interest in volleyball and lacrosse, and they are under constant supervision during this time, as they are every afternoon of the school year. One of the fine features about the athletics at Augusta is the fact that all of the coaches are the men who also teach the boys in their classes. A glance at our catalog will

Cleaning the gym for a dance—volunteers of the Decorating Committee.





Mrs. Roller welcomes each young lady and her date.

disclose the fact that nearly all of the teachers have been here at least three years, and the majority have been here even longer. These men know the cadets, both in and out of class. They have had them in help classes, in study hall, in sports, and have been with them at church and at dances. In every way possible, they do all that they can to give every boy the attention, the advice and care that he needs. That these men have succeeded and are succeeding each year has been proven by the success of our alumni, and by the interest which each patron

continues to maintain in Augusta. We are proud of this, and frequently our patrons will write to parents, who have expressed an interest in Augusta for their boys, telling them how much AMA meant to their sons.

May the eighth is honored as Founders' Day, for this is the birthday of Professor Chas. S. Roller. His story is typical of the American story of success. When he returned to the Valley after the Civil War, he had a dream that he could take the school which had been at Fort Defiance since 1742, and which had been so close to his family, and build it into a fine school, dedicated to enriching the lives of the young men in the vicinity. Through devotion, loyalty, and a real love for teaching, Prof. Roller succeeded beyond his fondest dreams. Augusta grew steadily, began accepting students from out-of-state, and built a reputation of excellent preparation of its students. This spirit of work and dedication he passed to his two sons, Col. Thomas J. Roller and Col. Chas. S. Roller, Jr. Under their guidance, Augusta became one of the country's outstanding military preparatory academies. Since Col. Tom's death, Col.

Jitterbugs always attract attention at AMA's dances.





Time out for refreshments, served by the faculty and their wives.

Chas. S. Roller, Jr., devotes even more of his time and energy in seeing that Augusta retains its family atmosphere, its excellent academic training, and that it grows in excellence in every field. All of the school bare their heads in saluting not just one man, but a family which has kept, and will continue to keep alive the ideals of Professor Roller.

Each spring, the military facilities and the results of the teachings of the military department are carefully examined by the Government Inspectors. All of the boys and all of the faculty join with the Military Department in making this a success, and for many years, Augusta has received the coveted award, "Honor Military School." The meaning of this is explained in the catalog, and it carries with it the opportunity for three of Augusta's top cadets to compete for appointments to the various service academies.

Highlighting the spring season is the Pin-Up Queen Dance, at which time a young lady is selected to reign over the Academy for the year. In an impressive ceremony, the Queen is crowned by the Principal, and is served by a court of two Princesses and their escorts.

AMA's Dixiecrats jive during intermission.





Making plans for the next dance.

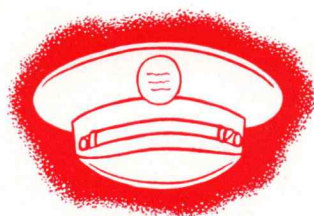
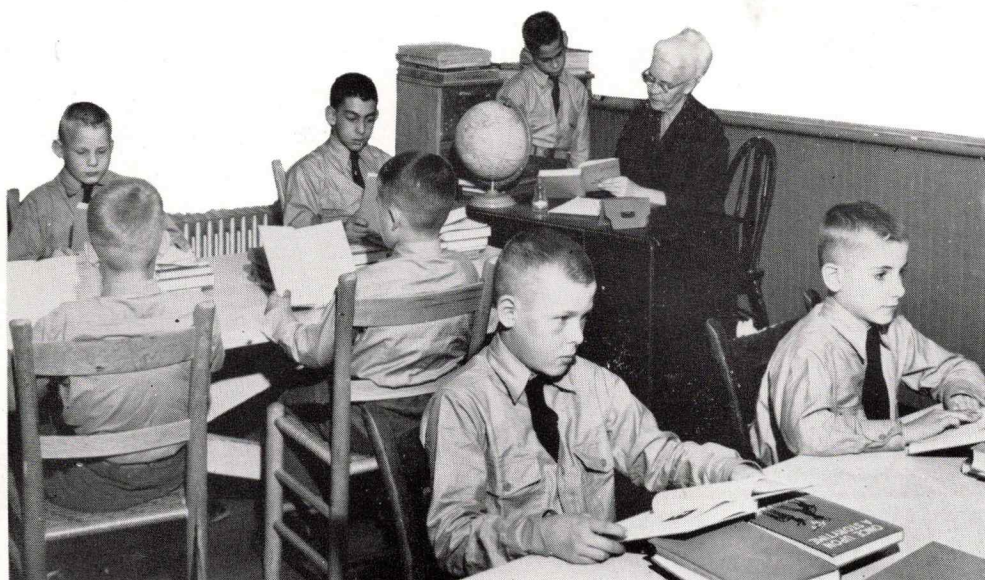
From that time until Finals, the grounds are alive with commands of "right face, to the rear, march, left oblique, march," and all of the other commands which will prepare the companies and platoons for the big competition.

In May each company gathers for its banquet, sometimes in the restaurants in the vicinity, sometimes at the home of a faculty officer for a bar-b-que. This is the time for speech-making on a cadet level, with the sponsors of the companies and their families present and in demand as speakers. Just about this time, a distinct difference is noted in the seniors. Their eyes begin to "see" their school, their teachers, and their classmates, and with this, comes the understanding of all that AMA has meant to them. The hurdle of examinations, however, puts this sentimental feeling away for a short while.

All year long, Major Hoover has been at work on the important book of cadet life—*The Recall*, AMA's yearbook. During the year, the photographer has spent many hours and many days at school, getting on film those glimpses of cadet life for that year. The publication staff works on all phases of the book—advertising, photography, and literary—and it succeeds in producing a book of real merit. Another group

works hard on the school paper, "The Bayonet". Both of these publications give evidence of the interest which has been put into them, as they have won first place awards in the Southern Interscholastic Press Association Meeting, in the Columbia Press contest, and in the Quill and Scroll awards. Just as examinations end, *The Recall* makes its appearance for the needed autographs which characterize every high school student's yearbook.

All year long, the Ciceronian Literary Society, an organization devoted to public speaking and debating, has encouraged the participation of all cadets at its frequent meetings. As June approaches, the best orators and debaters begin preparation for the Final meeting of the Society, one of the highlights of the Final Activities at Augusta, which begin with the Baccalaureate sermon at the Old Stone Church. Parades, guard mounts, and then the final celebration of the Literary Society and the Y. M. C. A. are held on Sunday night, following the wonderful buffet supper given for all patrons and the members of the Senior Class by Col. and Mrs. Roller at White Hall. Here again is a day when visitors to the Academy realize the extent of the faculty's devotion to the cadets and their interest in every phase of cadet life.



*Mrs. Davis is a mother to each
one of her boys.*

Augusta's Final Ball has been noted for its beauty and precision for over fifty years, and the preparations for it are made many months in advance. In 1954, the Final Ball Committee headed by Cadets Pete Stone and Parker Ward, gave the Academy one of its most outstanding dances, when the theme was a salute to the Confederate States of America. In a precision figure, executed by all of the officers of the school and their dates, the first eight of whom were in authentic costume, salutes were given to Lee, Jackson, Davis and other famous heroes of the South. With a desire for creating and by hard work, a group of boys had transformed the gymnasium into an outstanding hall, which

was called by a graduate of the United States Military Academy "the most beautiful that I have ever seen." In January, the cadets of the 1955 Final Ball Committee had already begun to make plans for a tribute to the countries forming the Pan-American Union.

And then comes the Big Day—graduation—a day that lives long in the memory of all who are present. The rewards of four years of fruitful labor are realized when Col. Roller gives each senior his diploma from AMA. Boys who have worked hard each day are rewarded when the best in each subject awards are made. The highest award given by the school is awaited anxiously. Ad Astra Per Aspera Fraternity elects

Snow visits Fort Defiance.





Capt. Lucas is constantly with his boys of the Junior School.

10 members of the student body to its membership each year. All members of the faculty and any cadet member of the fraternity vote for the ten most outstanding cadets of the school year. In an emotion-packed moment, each boy receives his Ad Astra gold pin from his mother, after the list has been read by the Principal.

In 1954, another incident occurred which places AMA in that select group of schools which does more than give excellent academic training. Twelve members of the corps realized that no award was given in the Principal's name, and so with the help of a member of the faculty, an award was established to the cadet who lived up to the excellence, devotion and service which

the Principal exemplified. The first captain, Parker Lafon Ward, of Huntington, West Virginia, was adjudged the most outstanding first captain in many years and AMA's most loyal senior. He was awarded a large trophy with the inscription "The Col. Chas. S. Roller, Jr., Loyalty Award." A fund was established for subsequent awards, to be given only to boys who served the school as did Cadet Ward.

The valedictory address is followed by the final formation on the black top for "Auld Lang Syne." Here the cup is given to the best company, watches presented to the captains for service to their companies, and dismissal for the last time is ordered. This cannot be adequately de-



Swings are fun for the small cadets.



A Confederate Ball—AMA's Final Ball Figure.

scribed. The feeling can be best illustrated by the "AMA Alma Mater," which was written by a cadet in 1954:

"Our High School friendships
Soon must sever,
But memories will not fade away,

Of thee, our very own Augusta
As through this life we wend our way.
We love thy ideals and traditions,
They've made us what we are today.
We will return to Alma Mater—
Our Dear Old AMA."



Capt. Wales and a cadet plan for the new school year.



